

determined, based on family needs assessments, to be necessary.”.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (16) and (17) as paragraphs (22) and (23), respectively,

(2) by redesignating paragraph (15) as paragraph (20), respectively,

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (11) through (14) as paragraphs (15) through (18), respectively,

(4) by redesignating paragraph (10) as paragraph (13),

(5) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (9) as paragraphs (3) through (10), respectively,

(6) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) The term ‘deficiency’ means—

“(A) systemic or significant material failure of a Head Start agency in an area of performance that the Secretary determines involves—

“(i) a threat to the health, safety, or civil rights of children or staff;

“(ii) a denial to parents of the exercise of their full roles and responsibilities related to program governance;

“(iii) a failure to perform the requirements of section 641A(a), as determined by the Secretary;

“(iv) the misuse of funds received under this subchapter;

“(v) loss of legal status (as determined by the Secretary) or financial viability, loss of permits, debarment from receiving Federal grants or contracts, or the improper use of Federal funds; or

“(vi) failure to meet any other of Federal or State requirement; or

“(B) material failure of the board of directors of a Head Start agency to meet its legal and fiduciary responsibilities.”,

(7) by inserting after paragraph (10), as so redesignated the following:

“(11) The term ‘homeless children’ has the meaning given such term in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)).

“(12) The term ‘homeless family’ means the family of a homeless child.”,

(8) by inserting after paragraph (13), as so redesignated the following:

“(14) The terms ‘limited English proficient’ and ‘limited English proficiency’ mean with respect to an individual, that such individual—

“(A)(i) was not born in the United States or has a native language that is not English;

“(ii)(I) is a Native American, an Alaska Native, or a native resident of a territory or possession of the United States; and

“(II) comes from an environment in which a language that is not English has had a significant impact on such individual’s level of English language proficiency; or

“(iii) is migratory, has a native language that is not English, and comes from an environment in which a language that is not English is dominant; and

“(B) has difficulty in speaking or understanding the English language to an extent that may be sufficient to prevent such individual from—

“(i) successful achievement in classrooms in which the language of instruction is English; or

“(ii) fully participating in society.”,

(9) by inserting after paragraph (18), as so redesignated the following:

“(19) The term ‘professional development’ means high quality activities that will improve the knowledge and skills of Head Start teachers and staff, as relevant to their roles and functions, in program administration and the provision of services and instruction, as appropriate, in a manner that improves service delivery to eligible children and families, including activities that—

“(A) are part of a sustained effort to improve overall program quality and outcomes for eligible children and families;

“(B) are developed or selected with extensive participation of administrators and teachers from Head Start programs;

“(C) are developmentally appropriate for the children being served;

“(D) include instruction in ways that Head Start personnel may work more effectively with parents, as appropriate;

“(E) are designed to give teachers and staff the knowledge and skills to provide instruction and appropriate support services to children of diverse backgrounds, as appropriate;

“(F) if a 1-day or short-term workshop or conference, must be as part of the professional development plan defined in section 648A(f) and be delivered by an institution of higher education or other entity with expertise in delivering training in early childhood development, family support, and other assistance designed to improve the delivery of Head Start services;

“(G) assist teachers with—

“(i) the acquisition of the content knowledge and teaching strategies needed to provide effective instruction and other school readiness services in early language and literacy, early mathematics, early science, cognitive skills, approaches to learning, creative arts, science, physical health and development, and social and emotional development linked to school readiness;

“(ii) meeting the requirements in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 648A(a), as appropriate;

“(iii) improving classroom management skills, as appropriate;

“(iv) advancing understanding of effective instructional strategies that are—

“(I) based on scientifically based research; and

“(II) aligned with—

“(aa) the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework developed by the Secretary and State early learning standards, as appropriate; and

“(bb) the curricula, ongoing assessments, and other instruction and services designed to help meet the standards described in section 641A(a)(1);

“(v) acquiring the knowledge and skills to provide instruction and appropriate language and support services to increase the English language skills of limited English proficient children, as appropriate; or

“(vi) methods of teaching children with disabilities, as appropriate.”,

(10) by inserting after paragraph (20), as so redesignated, the following:

“(21) The term ‘scientifically based research’—

“(A) means research that involves the application of rigorous, systematic and objective procedures to obtain reliable and valid knowledge relevant to education activities and programs; and

“(B) includes research that—

“(i) employs systematic, empirical methods that draw on observation or experiment;

“(ii) involves rigorous data analyses that are adequate to test the stated hypotheses and justify the general conclusions drawn;

“(iii) relies on measurements or observational methods that provide reliable and valid data across evaluators and observers, across multiple measurements and observations, and across studies by the same or different investigators;

“(iv) is evaluated using experimental or quasi-experimental designs in which individuals, entities, programs or activities are assigned to different conditions and with appropriate controls to evaluate the effects of the condition of interest, with a preference for random assignment experiments, or other designs to the extent that those designs contain within-condition or across-condition controls;

“(v) ensures that experimental studies are presented in sufficient detail and clarity to allow for replication or, at a minimum, offer the opportunity to build systematically on their findings; and

“(vi) has been accepted by a peer-reviewed journal or approved by a panel of independent

experts through a comparably rigorous, objective, and scientific review.”, and

(11) by amending paragraph (23), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(23) The term ‘State’ means a State, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands of the United States, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of Palau.”.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 639 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9834) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 639. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subchapter \$7,350,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2009 through 2012.

“(b) SPECIFIC PROGRAMS.—From the amount appropriated under subsection (a), the Secretary shall make available to carry out research, demonstration, and evaluation activities (including longitudinal studies under section 649) not more than \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012, of which not more than \$7,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012 shall be available to carry out impact studies under section 649(g).”.

SEC. 5. ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS; LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE.

(a) ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS.—Section 640(a) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds appropriated under section 639, the Secretary shall allot such amounts in accordance with paragraphs (2) through (4), and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6).

“(2) THIRTEEN PERCENT SET-ASIDE.—The Secretary shall reserve 13 percent of the amount appropriated for each fiscal year for use in accordance with the following order of priorities:

“(A) SPECIAL POPULATIONS.—For Indian Head Start programs, services for children with disabilities, and migrant and seasonal Head Start programs, except that—

“(i) there shall be made available for each fiscal year for use by Indian Head Start programs and by migrant and seasonal Head Start programs, on a nationwide basis, not less than the amount that was obligated for use by Indian Head Start programs and by migrant and seasonal Head Start programs for fiscal year 2007;

“(ii) migrant and seasonal Head Start programs shall receive not less than 5 percent of the amount appropriated for each fiscal year until such time as the Secretary can make funding decisions to ensure access to funding for eligible children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers is comparable to access to funding for other eligible children based on the data collected and reported pursuant to section 648(l), except that no future reduction in funding shall result in the termination of Head Start services provided to any eligible child 3 years of age or older who is participating in any such program on the date a reduction in funding occurs, and shall, to the extent possible, continue participation for children less than 3 years of age receiving services before such reduction in funding; and

“(iii) Indian Head Start programs shall receive not less than 3.5 percent of the amount appropriated for each fiscal year until such time as the Secretary can make funding decisions to ensure access to funding for eligible Indian children is comparable to access to funding for other eligible children based on the data collected in accordance with the requirements of section 648(k), except that no future reduction in funding shall result in the termination of Head Start services provided to any eligible child 3 years of age or older who is participating in any such program on the date a reduction in funding occurs, and shall, to the extent possible,